

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10, 12-24, and 26 are pending in the present application. Claims 8-10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 are amended, and Claims 11 and 25 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, a new declaration was required; the specification was objected to; Claims 18-26 were objected to; Claims 11 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 8-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 8-26 were indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

Because the present amendment reduces the number of issues for appeal by canceling Claims 11 and 25 and raises no new issues, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116 is believed to be in order and it is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, the specification is amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action, Claims 11 and 25 are canceled, and Claims 8-10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 are amended as also suggested in the outstanding Office Action.

More specifically, the specification is amended at page 2, line 2, to recite the term “drilled holes,” and the term “abutment portions” is canceled in Claims 11, 18, and 25.

Regarding the objection to Claims 18-26, Claim 18 has been amended to recite “at least one distributor” as suggested in the outstanding Office Action.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 11 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Claims 11 and 25 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicants believe that a new oath or

declaration is unnecessary as the features (except the "rods") objected to in the outstanding Office Action as not embraced in the statement of the invention have been omitted and the "rods" are embraced by the statement of the invention, for example at page 5, line 26, to page 6, line 21 of the specification.

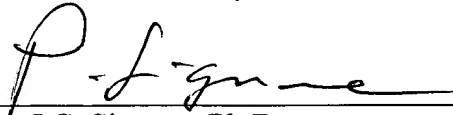
Regarding the rejection of Claims 8-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 8 has been amended to clearly recite that a stator ring is not part of the claimed assembly, and the term "abutment portions" has been replaced by the term "collars," which is disclosed in the specification at page 4, lines 16-28. Claim 18 has been amended similar to Claim 8 to omit the term "abutment portions." No new matter has been added.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 9, 12, 19, and 21, Claims 9 and 19 have been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action, and Claims 12 and 21 have been amended to more clearly recite that the rods cover and cross the plurality of manifolds. No new matter has been added.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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